The Faith that Saves.

April 18, 1937.

THE FAITH THAT SAVES.

Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

INTRO. Nowadays the person who says he believes in Jesus Christ must go on to state in what way he believes in him One may hold merely a theological belief in

Jesus while another may mean a faith in what the Master stood for rather than a creed about Jesus. Every Christian should know definitely just what his faith in Christ signifies.

You have a right to know in just what way your pastor believe in Jesus Christ. But before I give you my positive constructive belief, let me tell you that I do not pin my faith on the interpretation of any particular generation, whether the first or any other since. My faith in Christ clings to the eternal realities in him rather than to any generations's viewpoint of Him. Let me give you some examples.

1. Jesus as the Messiah

2. Jesus as the Logos

3. I dont go to the museum of Theology for my faith

4. My faith not subject to any materialistic view or evidence.

The Bible cannot be true exppt it was dictated by the Holy Spirit and is verbally accurate
Jesus cannot be the living Christ unless he rose in physical body from the dead.
He cannot return to his people unless he comes in bodily presence, riding on the clouds of heaven.
He cannot be the sinless savior unless he was born of a virgin.

All this is a materialistic philosophy which to me has nothing to do with my faith in Jesus Christ. My faith is not built upon any such sand, my faith is no insult to intelligence.

Jesus Christ as a fulfillment of human character and as a revelation of the force at work in the universe which we call God our Father has awakened what faith I have in him.

I. I believe that Jesus opens up for us a clear and possible way to live as God wants us to live.

1. I said at Easter that if there was something in Jesus not in us which enabled him to rise from the dead, then Easter is without meaning to me. I go further to say that if there is something in Jesus which is not in us which enabled him to live his life in God, then he ceases to be our leader- he loses for us the power to strive for achievement.

Let me illustrate.

Two men travel, the one has $5000 to spend and the other but $1000. The $5000 man has an unquestioned advantage over the other.

If Jesus Christ travels a road over which I can never pass why should I endeavor to follow him? But if he travels a road over which he beckons me to follow and which is open to me, then I can give my utmost energy to following him, knowing that if I fail, it will be not because the way is barred, but because my own will and strength have failed me.

This does not mean that I am as good as Jesus. I am not worthy to touch him, he is so far beyond in quality. But the road he traveled and the virtues he exemplified may be mine if I so will even as he willed.

2. To me, Jesus Christ is the perfect illustration of the life of God in man, and as such he does two things for us. In the first place he reveals God to us. By what Jesus is we judge what the forces in our universe are. He is not the only revealer of these forces, but to me, he is the perfect revelation of these forces.

When Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" he meant that the quality in God was also in him, rather than that he and God were the same person.

When we see forgiveness in him, love in him, truth in him, beauty and grace in him, we are taken back to the sources from whence they came- we see in them the forces of God at work.

These same forces are available to all who will make the same kind of dedication he did. Christlikeness in those who have accepted him as the revelation of God makes Christ himself stand out all the more strongly. As the scriptures say, "They took notice of them that they had been with Jesus.

Lyman Abbott's uncle Jerry.

In a truer sense God is like Jesus Christ.

3.II. In addition to revealing God to us Jesus becomes for us "a Way of Life".

We are concerned here with the spirit that drove him on That becomes our way.

His insights into life we accept as our own.

His revelation of personality and of the relationship of brotherhood which should exist between all persons and peoples is gradually revolutionizing society.

Slavery has disappeared from civilized human society.

The truth about war which Jesus taught is beginning to have its effect. "They that take the sword shall perish by the sword." We are now seeing that nobody wins in any war between nations. We all lose.

Jesus' way of cooperative good will is slowly being recognized as the way of life. The force of it is being felt not only in politics but in economics as well. Not that we can do away with force overnight, but that the only organizing, creative principle for life is cooperativ good will. Force only stops the tiger from tearing us to pieces. Creative good will gets us on to a better civilization.

The difference between a family run by force and one run on the basis of cooperative good will.

Yes, Jesus is a way to life as well as a revealer of God. As Mt.Everest stands above all other mountain peaks in the world, so Jesus Christ stands above all other human personalities. And just as our high peaks arouse men to climb and conquer them so Jesus fires the souls of men to aspire to his height in ~~this~~ knowledge of God and i and in his way of life.

When one has caught ~~this~~ vision of the compelling reality of Jesus he never quite gets away from it nor can he remain the same.

When I see others in Christ clean up their business, redeem the slums, go to other lands to serve and in every way minister to the needs of suffering humanity, my own personal experience in Christ is reaffirmed and immeasurably strengthened.

My study of "faith" in the Bible.
O.T. examples of believing, trusting, taking refuge in God.
N.T. — the supreme act + reference of the soul — surrender to God + the adoption of His ways for right living.